

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP99/07274 filed October 1, 1999**

--7. (New) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules have a diameter of from 0.5 to 5 mm.--

--8. (New) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules have a diameter of from 0.8 to 3 mm.--

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--9. (New) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules have a uniform size and shape.--

--10. (New) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules are substantially spherical.--

--11. (New) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules have a length-to-diameter ratio of 1:1.--

--12. (New) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the at least one plastic additive comprises a component selected from the group consisting of lubricants, stabilizers, and mixtures thereof.--

--13. (New) The composition according to claim 12, wherein the component is selected from the group consisting of calcium soaps, zinc soaps, and mixtures thereof.--

--14. (New) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules are substantially spherical and have a diameter of from 0.8 to 3 mm, and wherein the at least one plastic additive comprises a component selected from the group consisting of calcium soaps, zinc soaps, and mixtures thereof.--

--15. (New) A granular composition prepared by a process comprising:

(a) providing cylindrical granules of a composition containing at least

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one plastic additive; and

(b) spheronizing the cylindrical granules to form granules having a length-to-diameter ratio of from 1:1 to 3:1.--

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--16. (New) The granular composition according to claim 15, wherein providing the cylindrical granules comprises: (i) extruding a composition containing at least one plastic additive into a fine strand; and (ii) cutting the fine strand into cylindrical granules.--

--17. (New) The granular composition according to claim 16, wherein the composition is extruded using a twin-screw extruder.--

--18. (New) The granular composition according to claim 17, wherein the composition is extruded at a temperature of from 20 to 110°C and a pressure of from 25 to 60 bar.--

--19. (New) The granular composition according to claim 15, wherein spheronizing is accomplished using a spheronizer having a rotating bottom disk.--

--20. (New) The granular composition according to claim 19, wherein spheronizing is performed at a rotational speed of 320 rpm with a residence time of 30 seconds.--

--21. (New) The granular composition according to claim 15, wherein the process further comprises impregnating the granules with an additional active substance.--

--22. (New) The granular composition according to claim 21, wherein impregnating the granules with an additional active substance is accomplished via surface-powdering.--

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--23. (New) The granular composition according to claim 22, wherein the surface powdering is carried out at least partly during spheronizing.--

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--24. (New) The granular composition according to claim 18, wherein spheronizing is carried out using a spheronizer having a rotating bottom disk operating at a rotational speed of 320 rpm with a residence time of 30 seconds; and the process further comprises impregnating the granules with an additional active substance.--

--25. (New) A method of stabilizing a plastic composition during processing, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a plastic composition;
- (b) providing a granular composition comprising granules containing at least one plastic additive, the granules having a length-to-diameter ratio of from 1:1 to 3:1; and
- (c) combining the plastic composition and the granular composition prior to processing completion.--

Please cancel claims 1-5, without prejudice.